

## Patent claims:

1. Filter aid which comprises finely divided wood particles which have been subjected to a chemical liquid treatment, characterized in that the particles have been subjected to a treatment with a dilute alkali solution at a temperature below 100°C and at atmospheric pressure, which removes the sensorially active substances from the wood particles.
2. Filter aids according to claim 1, characterized in that the particles comprise wood fibers.
3. Filter aids according to claim 1, characterized in that the particles comprise wood comminution residues.
4. Filter aid according to <sup>claim 1</sup> ~~one of claims 1 to 3~~, characterized in that it essentially comprises only wood particles of one and the same type, size distribution and pretreatment.
5. Filter aid according to <sup>claim 1</sup> ~~one of claims 1 to 3~~, characterized in that it comprises at least two fractions of particles comminuted by different processes.
6. Filter aid according to <sup>claim 1</sup> ~~one of claims 1 to 5~~, characterized in that it comprises at least two fractions of particles comminuted to different dimensions.
7. Filter aid according to <sup>claim 1</sup> ~~one of claims 1 to 6~~,

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characterized in that it comprises fractions of particles produced from at least two different starting materials.

8. Filter aid according to <sup>claim 1</sup> ~~one of claims 1 to 7~~, characterized in that it comprises other organic or inorganic fractions which do not affect the filtration properties.

9. Filter aid according to <sup>claim 1</sup> ~~one of claims 1 to 8~~, characterized in that it comprises other filter-active fractions.

10. Filter aid according to <sup>claim 1</sup> ~~one of claims 1 to 9~~, characterized in that it comprises other mineral fractions.

11. Filter aid according to <sup>claim 1</sup> ~~one of claims 1 to 10~~, characterized in that it comprises kieselguhr.

12. Filter aid according to <sup>claim 1</sup> ~~one of claims 1 to 11~~, characterized in that it comprises perlite.

13. Filter aid according to <sup>claim 1</sup> ~~one of claims 1 to 12~~, characterized in that the mean particle dimension of the ready-to-use filter aid is below 3.0 mm.

14. Filter aid according to <sup>claim 1</sup> ~~one of claims 1 to 13~~, characterized in that the mean fiber diameter is below 1.0 mm in the case of fibrous particles.

15. <sup>claim 1</sup> Process for producing the filter aid according to ~~one of claims 1 to 14~~, characterized in that the particles are digested with the dilute alkali solution

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during a period of action.

16. Process according to claim 15, characterized in that the temperature of the dilute alkali solution during the treatment is in the range of room temperature.

17. Process according to claim 15 ~~or 16~~, characterized in that the temperature of the dilute alkali solution during treatment is 50-100°C.

18. Process according to <sup>claim 15</sup> ~~one of claims 15 to 17~~, characterized in that the temperature of the dilute alkali solution during the treatment is from 70 to 90°C.

19. Process according to <sup>claim 15</sup> ~~one of claims 15 to 18~~, characterized in that concentration of the dilute alkali solution is from 2 to 10% by weight, based on the solids content.

20. Process according to <sup>claim 15</sup> ~~one of claims 15 to 19~~, characterized in that the alkali solution used is sodium hydroxide solution.

21. Process according to <sup>claim 15</sup> ~~one of claims 15 to 20~~, characterized in that the period of action is of a duration such that at most 10% by weight on an absolutely dry basis of the wood constituents are removed.

22. Process according to <sup>claim 15</sup> ~~one of claims 15 to 21~~, characterized in that the period of action is from 5 to 120 min.

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23. Process according to ~~one of claims 15 to 22,~~ <sup>claim 15</sup>  
characterized in that the consistency during the  
treatment is from 5 to 25%.

24. Process according to ~~one of claims 15 to 23,~~ <sup>claim 15</sup>  
characterized in that the particles are washed and  
dried after the period of action.

25. Process according to ~~one of claims 15 to 24,~~ <sup>claim 15</sup>  
characterized in that the particle size during the  
treatment is up to 10 mm, preferably from 0.1 to  
1.0 mm.

26. Process according to ~~one of claims 15 to 25,~~ <sup>claim 15</sup>  
characterized in that the water value is set by  
influencing the grinding in the wet phase (refiner).

27. Process according to ~~one of claims 15 to 26,~~ <sup>claim 15</sup>  
characterized in that the particles are further  
comminuted after the treatment and before the drying,  
simultaneously with the drying or after the drying.

28. Process according to ~~one of claims 15 to 27,~~ <sup>claim 15</sup>  
characterized in that the particles are classified  
after the treatment and the drying.

29. The use of finely divided wood particles which  
have been subjected to a treatment with a dilute alkali  
solution at a temperature below 100°C and at  
atmospheric pressure, which treatment removes the  
sensorially active substances from the wood particles,  
as filter aid.

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30. The use of finely divided wood particles which have been treated according to <sup>claim 15</sup> ~~one of claims 15 to 28~~ as filter aid.

31. The use according to claim 29 ~~or 30~~ in beverage filtration, in particular beer filtration.

32. The use according to claim 29 ~~or 30~~ in food filtration.

33. The use according to claim 29 ~~or 30~~ in the sector of the cleaning of liquids in the chemicals industry.

34. The use according to claim 29 ~~or 30~~ in the sector of the cleaning of auxiliary liquids in metalworking.

35. The use according to claim 29 ~~or 30~~ in the sector of pharmaceuticals and cosmetics.

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